



AVIAN INFLUENZA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BIOSECURITY TO PREVENT AVIAN INFLUENZA IN YOUR FLOCK

http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/diseases/avian_influenza.html

How is Avian Influenza spread?

Avian Influenza can be spread through the respiratory secretions and feces of infected birds. Some birds, notably waterfowl, are believed to be the reservoirs of Avian Influenza and can shed the virus in their feces without showing symptoms of the disease. Exposure of non-infected birds to infected birds, contaminated equipment, vehicles, or people who have been on AI-infected farms also pose risks for introducing AI into New Jersey. Once introduced, the disease can spread quickly from bird to bird by direct or indirect contact.

How long can the AI virus remain infectious?

AI virus can remain infectious in feces for 7 days at 68° F and 35 days at 40° F, and can survive indefinitely in frozen material. One gram of contaminated manure contains enough virus to infect one million birds.

What can I do to prevent AI?

Organic material harboring the AI virus can be picked up on shoes and clothing and moved from an area with sick birds to an area with healthy birds. Moving birds can also spread AI, especially because some birds can carry disease without looking sick.

Here are things you can do to prevent AI in your birds:

Restrict access to your property and your birds.

- Consider fencing off poultry housing areas.
- Allow only essential people contact with your poultry.
- If visitors have birds of their own, do not let them near your birds.
- Post biosecurity signs (available from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA)) at the start of your driveway to discourage traffic and visitors from entering your premise.
- Minimize contact with game birds and migratory waterfowl.

If a diagnosis of High Pathogenic AI has been made in New Jersey, you may be required to limit exposure of your birds to the wild bird population.

Keep everything clean.

- Wear clean clothes or coveralls while working with your birds.
- Have a footbath outside the doorway of the facility, with disinfectant and a scrub brush. Scrub footwear before entering and exiting.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before and after entering your bird area, or use commercially available disinfectant hand gels.
- Change food and water daily.
- Clean and disinfect cages or equipment that comes into contact with your birds or their droppings.
- Remove manure before disinfecting cages, equipment, etc. Disinfectants will NOT work if there is still manure (organic material) present on items.
- Call the NJDA for testing of any suspect ill or dead birds, at (609) 292-3965.

Be careful where you go, so that you don't bring AI home to your birds.

- Clean and disinfect vehicle tires and undercarriage if you have been near other birds or bird owners, such as at a feed store, auction market, live bird market, fair, poultry supply store, outdoor areas where waterfowl congregate, farmer meetings, etc.
- If you have been to any of the places above, as soon as you get home, shower and put on clean clothes before taking care of your birds.
- If you take birds to a show or fair, keep them isolated from the rest of your flock for 21 days after the event and observe for signs of illness.
- New birds should be kept separate from your flock for at least 21 days.

Do NOT borrow or share items with your neighbor or anybody else.

- Do not share lawn and garden equipment, tools, vehicles, or poultry supplies with your neighbors or other bird owners. If you do share equipment or tools, clean and disinfect them before they reach your property.
- If a diagnosis of High Pathogenic AI has been made in New Jersey, all movement of poultry, poultry products, poultry feeds and supplies will have to comply with any and all emergency rules the State Veterinarian may have to enforce. This may have to include requiring that only certain roads or highways can be used to transport such commodities, in order to keep poultry vehicles away from susceptible poultry farms and other avian premises.
- Only accept AI test negative birds for flock additions.
- Buy only from flocks that have been tested negative for AI, or are on the AI Monitored Flock program sponsored by the NJDA.

Use biosecurity practices! By making biosecurity a part of your daily routine, you decrease the chance of AI showing up on your premise.

Enroll in the NJDA Monitored Flock Program for Avian Influenza.

- Contact the NJDA at (609) 292-3965 for more information on the Monitored Flock Program, and to sign up for testing.

Report sick birds to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture

- When in doubt, do not hesitate! Call NJDA at (609) 292-3965 for testing of ill or dead birds. Someone from the Division will visit your premise as soon as possible.
- There are many causes of death in birds. Just because a bird dies, it does not automatically mean that the cause is AI. It is best to have the bird tested.

State and Federal Agency Contact Information:

**New Jersey Department of Agriculture,
Division of Animal Health**
(609) 292-3965 – Office & After-Hours Emergency

**New Jersey Department of Environmental
Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife**
(609) 292-2965 - Office
1-877-927-6337 - Emergency Hotline

**New Jersey Department of Health and Senior
Services, Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases**
(609) 588-3121 - Office
(609) 392-2020 - After-Hours Emergency

USDA—APHIS, Veterinary Services, New Jersey
(609) 259-8387 – Office & Emergency

USDA—APHIS, Wildlife Services, New Jersey
(908) 735-5654 – Office
(908) 623-7400 – After-Hours Emergency